

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraphs, starting at page 2, line 6 through page 3, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 5-2105, ~~[[as]]~~ the material of an annular film ~~may be constituting the film material~~, for example, thermoplastic resins and thermosetting resins such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polystyrene, polyisobutylene, polycarbonate, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinyl acetal, polymethyl methacrylate, polyacrylonitrile, polyimide, cellulose-based fluorine resin, epoxy, polyurethane, silicone resin; copolymers thereof; and ~~[[those]]~~ materials with plasticizer or filler added ~~thereto are used~~.

As shown in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 2003-12349, a joined optical element for UV region is also known. ~~The joined optical element, which is formed through an adhesive layer by joining optical elements capable of transmitting ultraviolet rays, using as [[the]]~~The adhesive layer is formed using a solution in which a solvent-soluble organic fluorine resin having no unsaturated [[bond]] bonds in the molecule is dissolved in a fluorine-containing solvent having a boiling point of 150 °C or higher and containing no unsaturated bond in the molecule, vaporizing the solvent in the part in contact with atmosphere of the adhesive layer, and joining the optical elements in the state where the solvent in the other part is left in the adhesive layer.

~~The adhesion by use of~~Using a conventional sealant [[had]] for adhesion exhibited problems, as that ~~[[the]]~~The inside solvent is not hardened because it is not vaporized due to large adhesion distortion. Moreover, [[a]] heating treatment cannot be performed because it affects the precision of a high precision lens, and [[an]] axial slippage results is caused. Therefore, an extremely precise device such as semiconductor inspection device could not be suitably used in ultraviolet region.

Please replace the paragraph, at page 3, lines 12-19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A preferred sealant is a sealant which is ~~[[never]]~~ not deteriorated by ultraviolet absorption~~[[,]]~~. Further it is preferred that the sealant causes no adhesion distortion when covering the optical elements~~[[,]]~~. It is also preferred ~~[[so]]~~ that the inside solvent ~~can be~~ is easily vaporized and hardened without requiring a heating treatment, ~~[[nor]]~~ and that no axial slippage results. As the most suitable material to be filled in the optical elements for use in ultraviolet region, a fluorine-based organic compound is adapted. A preferred example of the fluorine-based organic compound is a fluorine-based oil (fluorine grease).

Please replace the paragraph, at page 4, lines 8-14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The lens 1 is a lens formed of a fluorite (CaF_2) about 20 mm in diameter, and the lens 2 is a lens formed of a synthetic quartz (SiO_2) about 20 mm in diameter. A gap ~~entirely~~ having the same thickness over its entirety is preferably provided between the lenses 1 and 2. A fluorine grease 3 that is one preferred example of the fluorine-based organic compound ~~is perfectly filled~~ completely fills in the gap. Consequently, the lenses 1 and 2 are mutually closely fitted and stuck.